

NOTES FOR QUERIES

It has come to the attention of the Folklore Forum that there exists, within the folk of academe, the "tale of the elevator man." Perhaps this tale could be properly classed as a local event legend, but the extensive dispersion and time depth of the story lead us to believe that we have here the makings of an extensive folktale cycle. The story was first heard from the chairman of the English department at the University of California at Davis in 1966. Most recently two noted scholars from an Eastern folklore center told the story at the meeting of the American Folklore Society held in Los Angeles, 1970. The tale basically involves a delegate to a scholarly conference (usually the teller of the story) and the elevator man of the hotel in which the conference is taking place. The elevator man observes that his passenger is a delegate to the meeting, noticing the participant's name tag. He then volunteers this observation: "I've seen a lot of conventions, but you guys do less fuckin' and less drinkin' than any of 'em." The Folklore Forum staff, having some insight into the personalities of some folklorists, wonders if this chunk of oral creation might not somehow be related to myth.

And in like vein, the Folklore Forum was pleased to observe that the venerable collection of tales, which in a sense gave birth to our discipline, Kinder- und Hausmärchen, has made its way to the flickering screen as Grimm's Fairy Tales for Adults. Though an X-rated film, Tales did aptly convey what folklorists have claimed for years; that fairy tales are not just children's entertainment. A majority of the editorial staff decided to sit in judgement of this film and had only minor criticisms. It was felt that type and motif numbers should have been given in the credits or flashed on the screen as they occurred. Since this publication is only R-rated (must be read in the company of parent, guardian, or spouse), we cannot give a summary of the movie's contents. We advise that our readers run, not walk, to their neighborhood theater when this film is playing; and try to bargain for free admittance, since you carried your six-volume index to verify that what you are about to see is really "folklore."